

1976

The One Hundred and Tenth Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee: University Year for Action

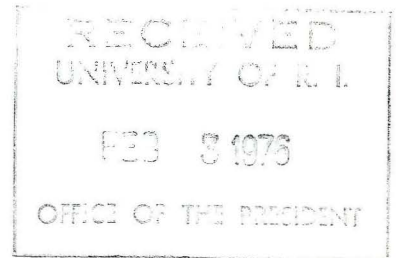
University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode IslandFACULTY SENATE
BILLAdopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled The One Hundred and Tenth Report of the
Curricular Affairs Committee: University Year for Action

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on January 29, 1976
(date)
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on February 19, 1976 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

January 30, 1976
(date)

W. Donald Rankin
W. Donald Rankin
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. Approved ✓. Disapproved _____.
3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Regents is not necessary.

Feb 24, 1976
(date)

Frank Newman
President

RECEIVED
FEB 25 1976
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

(date)

President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Regents, via the University President.

1. Forwarded.

(date)

(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

(date)

President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

(date)

Chairman of the Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

December 22, 1975

Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee One Hundred and Tenth Report

At its meeting of December 15, 1975, the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee considered the following curricular matters now submitted to the Faculty Senate.

S E C T I O N I *

Curricular Matters Submitted to the Faculty Senate for Confirmation:

The Curricular Affairs Committee recommends approval of the following:

- a. That the Faculty Senate and the President jointly create a Committee on UYA Experiential Learning for the Spring and Fall semesters of 1976.
- b. That the Committee on UYA Experiential Learning be empowered to authorize designated faculty instructors to assign grades for the work contracted for under UYA 201X or 302X.
- c. That the Faculty Senate request that the President appoint the members of the Committee on UYA Experiential Learning upon recommendation of the Curricular Affairs Committee. The Committee on UYA Experiential Learning shall include at least three full time faculty members, selected for their expertise in experiential education.
- d. That the Committee on UYA Experiential Learning report to the Curricular Affairs Committee at the Curricular Affairs Committee's second meeting of the Fall semester, 1976 on its experience. The report will include recommendations as to whether UYA 201X, 302X and the Committee on UYA Experiential Learning shall be made permanent, modified or terminated. The Committee will provide documentation to support its recommendations.

Rationale:

- 1) Authority to grant credit for ACTION Courses in the College of Arts and Sciences has elapsed (the College of Home Economics has one additional semester).
- 2) Supervision by an authorized committee allows for greater faculty control and more appropriate assignment of academic credit.
- 3) Only temporary approval is recommended to enable the course to operate on an experimental basis while providing an opportunity for its effectiveness and place in the University's curriculum to be evaluated.

* * * * *

* As amended by the Faculty Senate on January 8, 1976 and January 29, 1976.

SECTION II *

UYA 201X, 302X University Year for Action Field Experience

I, II, 3-15 each

Learning experience gained during participation in the University Year for Action Program. This experience will be defined by a contract between the student and the instructor, which will be reviewed by and must gain the approval of the Committee on UYA Experiential Learning (Practicum 6-30). Pre: Permission of the Committee on UYA Experiential Learning and the student's academic adviser. UYA Field Experience may be repeated once for a maximum of thirty credits. The Committee on UYA Experiential Learning will determine the number and level of credits appropriate for each student. Staff

* * * * *

SECTION III

Background Information on the University Year for Action Program.

The Curricular Affairs Committee makes the above recommendations to facilitate the operation of the University Year for ACTION (UYA) program at U.R.I. during the spring and fall semesters of 1976. Since the Faculty Senate has not been informed previously about the UYA program, the following report is offered to provide basic information about the program.

ACTION and UYA

ACTION is an independent federal agency which was established in July 1971 to coordinate federal volunteer programs such as the Peace Corps, VISTA, SCORE, RSVP, and Foster Grandparents. The first new program established by ACTION was the University Year for ACTION (UYA).

UYA is an anti-poverty program which enables undergraduate students to earn a full year's academic credit while serving in a volunteer program of community service to poverty communities. Through its UYA program, ACTION offers three-year grants to colleges and universities --- such as U.R.I. --- to subsidize the development of programs of experiential learning at the participating institutions. The experiential learning programs allow students to receive academic credit while serving as full-time volunteers in anti-poverty agencies. The goals of UYA are summarized in the UYA Operations Handbook as being to:

- a. provide effective manpower to work on poverty problems;
- b. combine community service and service learning in an integrated one-year project;
- c. encourage university involvement in local poverty communities;
- d. administer volunteer projects at the local level using universities;
- and
- e. institutionalize the above goals of UYA at participating schools.

UYA Grant to URI

U.R.I. became involved in the UYA program at the initiative of Rev. Arthur Hardge and Mr. Leo DiMaio, who are administrators of the University's Special Program for Talent Development (SPTD). With the approval of the University administration, Rev. Hardge and Mr. DiMaio applied to ACTION in October 1974 for a planning grant. They received a planning grant of \$2954 from ACTION to support the preparation of a comprehensive grant proposal. Some of the planning grant funds were used to hire Ms. Noreen Coachman, a graduate of U.R.I., to help in the preparation of the final grant proposal. The planning grant period was from December 2, 1974 to January 21, 1975. The final grant proposal was submitted with the approval of the University administration.

In response to the SPTD grant proposal, ACTION agreed to subsidize a UYA program at URI for three years -- from February 15, 1975 to February 14, 1978. The program is to involve an average of thirty students during each year. ACTION agreed to support the program with \$90,000 during the first year, \$85,000 during the second year, and \$80,000 during the third year. The University committed itself to supply \$10,000 (in cash or kind) during the first year, \$15,000 (at least \$5,000 in cash) during the second year, and \$20,000 (at least \$10,000 in cash) during the third year. Participation by U.R.I. for the full three years is neither mandatory nor guaranteed; each year the two parties (U.R.I. and ACTION) must agree to renew their cooperation.

The University's commitment during the first year has been met entirely by in-kind contributions, such as office space, supplies, utilities, and the part-time help of the SPTD staff. The ACTION grant provided stipends of \$2165 per year for UYA volunteers (\$64,950 total), paid the salaries and fringe benefits of the two full-time UYA staff members (director and administrative assistant; \$21,884 total), and supported other activities of UYA staff and volunteers.

Academic Credit for UYA at URI in 1975

The University could not have accepted the ACTION grant, unless it were willing to grant students thirty academic credits for their year in UYA. Before the grant was accepted finally by the University (February 14, 1975), four departments in the College of Arts and Sciences (Economics, Education, Psychology, and Sociology), the Curriculum Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences approved two new experimental courses which enabled students to receive fifteen credits for each semester's work in the UYA program. It was important that special courses be created for UYA students, for the UYA Operations Handbook states that "In order to assure full-time volunteer service, ... volunteers shall not attend formal, traditional campus-based classes." The special courses were a three-credit colloquium "EDC 398X - University Year for Action Colloquium" and a six-credit practicum course cross listed as EDC 399X, EDC 399X, PSY 399X, and SOC 399X. Students were expected to earn six additional credits in existing "Directed Study" or "Special Problems" or similar courses each semester in order to earn a total of fifteen credits each semester. Twenty-seven students participated in the UYA program during the Spring 1975 semester.

During the Fall semester 1975 thirty-three students have participated in the UYA program. Two of the students have been enrolled in special "X" courses approved by the departments of Child Development and Family Relations, Food and Nutritional Science, Home Economics Education, Home Management, and Textiles, Clothing and Related Art, and by the Dean of Home Economics. These courses are a six-credit "Special Problems for University Year for Action" (cross-listed as CDF 397X, FNS 397X, HED 397X, HMG 397X, and TXC 397X) and a three-to-six credit "Practicum Experience" cross-listed in the five departments as 399X.

Each of the students involved in the UYA program works in an agency which serves a low-income population group. Students receive professional supervision at the agency and are visited at their place of work by the UYA Director and by their faculty advisor. Students also spend one to six hours each week discussing academic subjects related to their work experience with their faculty advisor. Among the agencies which have engaged URI volunteers are the Opportunities Industrial Center, the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office, C.A.N.E., the Governor's Office on Volunteerism, Sympatico, the Washington County Health Center, Speakeasy, and the Town of East Greenwich. Faculty advisors (all of whom have been volunteers) include Professors Anthony Allen (EDC), Judith Anderson (SPE), Harold Barnett (ECN), Michael Bassis (SOC), Walter Beaupre (SPE), Stanley Berger (PSY), Henry Biller (PSY), Marguerite Bumpus (EDC), William Haller (ECN), Sylvia Lapin (CDF), Arthur Stein (PSC), John Stevenson (PSY), Alan Willoughby (PSY), and Clifford Wirth (PSC). The UYA program has been administered at U.R.I. by Ms. Noreen Coachman (Director) and Ms. Alexa Grant (Administrative Assistant).

Proposed Modifications for URI-UYA for 1976

The UYA program has operated at U.R.I. for two semesters as an experiment in experiential learning. The Curricular Affairs Committee recommends that the experiment be continued for two more semesters with some modifications. The modifications proposed by the Curricular Affairs Committee are based on recommendations made to it by the URI-UYA Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes UYA students, the UYA staff, URI faculty members, URI administrators, and representatives of agencies where URI-UYA students have been working.

The Curricular Affairs Committee hopes that the proposed changes will improve the academic quality of the UYA program. The most important part of this proposal is that the University establish a Committee on Experiential Learning as a two-semester experiment.

The membership of this committee has not yet been decided. It will, however, be broadly representative of the entire University. Since this is to be a "working committee," membership will not exceed seven or eight. Most of the members of the committee will be full-time continuing URI faculty members.

The Committee on Experiential Learning will authorize faculty members to award academic credit for field experience (FLD 201X, 302X) to their UYA student advisees. UYA students will be encouraged to register in appropriate Directed Study, Special Problems, and Field Experience courses offered by academic departments (with departmental approval). The new, temporary, non-disciplinary field experience courses (FLD 201X, 302X) will replace the six-credit practicum courses (399X cross-listed in nine departments) and the three-credit UYA Colloquium (EDC 398X) in the academic programs of UYA students.

Students who wish to receive academic credit for FLD 201X, or 302X will submit a program plan or learning contract to the Committee on Experiential Learning. Students will prepare their learning contract with the assistance of their UYA faculty advisor and an agency supervisor. The learning contract will specify a) what work the student will do; b) what education experience will be involved in the work experience; and c) how the student's work will be evaluated. The learning contracts will be similar to individual course syllabi. By reviewing all learning contracts, the Committee on Experiential Learning will be able to establish and maintain academic standards for the UYA program.

One major issue affecting the UYA program has yet to be resolved: Compensation for faculty advisors. The UYA Advisory Committee proposed originally that eight faculty advisors be released from one-third of their normal duties each semester. Replacements would be hired as necessary. Each of these faculty advisors would supervise as many as six UYA students each semester. Since supervision involves meeting with each student for one to six hours each week to discuss the student's work experience and related academic work, faculty advisors in the UYA program would deserve the released time as proposed. For the next two semesters, however, the UYA Advisory Committee has reduced its request for faculty released time. For the Spring semester 1976, released time and replacements have been requested for two faculty members; for Fall 1976 released time and replacements are being requested for two to four faculty members.

MH/SBG:LTN